

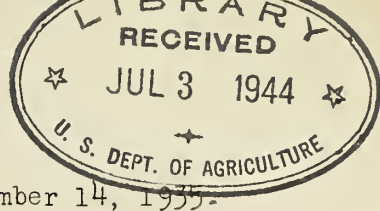
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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WEEKLY COTTON GRADE AND STAPLE REPORTS FOR WEEK ENDING  
DECEMBER 12

The last weekly grade and staple reports this season for North Carolina and Virginia were released today. Reports for other Southeastern States were discontinued previously as ginnings became less active.

Middling and higher grades of White and Extra White color standards this week represented 31 percent in Virginia and 36 percent in North Carolina, against 56 percent and 60 percent respectively to date this season. Spotted and Colored cotton increased in North Carolina to 40 percent from 31 percent last week, while in Virginia little change was shown from 34 percent reported last week. Nearly 23 percent of the cotton this week was Strict Low Middling and Low Middling in North Carolina and 35 percent in Virginia. To date these grades represented about 15 percent in North Carolina and almost 20 percent in Virginia.

Longer staple lengths were shown in both North Carolina and Virginia this week than last week. Very little 13/16 inch cotton was reported this week, while substantial increases were shown in 15/16 inch and longer staples. Of the cotton classed from Virginia to date this season approximately 1 percent was shorter than 7/8 inch, 50 percent was 15/16 inch, and 17 percent was 1 inch and longer. For North Carolina 5 percent was shorter than 7/8 inch, 28 percent was 15/16 inch, 35 percent was 1 inch, and 7 percent was 1-1/16 inches and longer.

These reports indicated an improvement in staple lengths this season in Virginia when compared with the report for corresponding date a year ago; in North Carolina slightly larger proportions are shown this year for staples shorter than 7/8 inch and for 1 inch cotton, with somewhat less 15/16 inch and 1-1/16 inches and longer cotton. Grades this season were much lower in North Carolina than last year, however, higher grades were reported in Virginia.

